

What is claimed is:

1. A sensor assembly for monitoring movement of an object near a head-neck region of an animal, the sensor assembly comprising:
  - a sensor that detects movement of the object near the head-neck region of the animal; and
  - a signaling unit that generates a sensory signal that is received by the animal when the sensor detects movement of the object near the head-neck region of the animal.
2. The sensor assembly of claim 1 wherein the object is a body region of the animal.
3. The sensor assembly of claim 1 wherein the sensor is an infrared sensor.
4. The sensor assembly of claim 1 wherein the sensory signal is a signal selected from the group consisting of an audible signal, a vibratory signal and a visual signal.
5. The sensor assembly of claim 1 wherein the sensor is coupled to the animal.
6. The sensor assembly of claim 5 wherein the sensor is positioned near a chest region of the animal.
7. The sensor assembly of claim 1 wherein the sensor is positioned on an extremity of the animal.
8. The sensor assembly of claim 1 wherein the sensor is selected from the group consisting of a directional sensor, a positional sensor and an inclination sensor.

9. The sensor assembly of claim 1 wherein the object is secured to an extremity of the animal.

10. The sensor assembly of claim 1 wherein the sensory signal varies.

11. The sensor assembly of claim 1 further comprising a counter that monitors the number of times that the sensor detects movement of the object near the head-neck region.

12. A sensor assembly for monitoring movement of an object near a head-neck region of an animal, the sensor assembly comprising:

a sensor that detects movement of the object near the head-neck region of the animal; and

a counter that monitors the number of times that the sensor detects movement of the object near the head-neck region.

13. The sensor assembly of claim 12 wherein the object is a body region of the animal.

14. The sensor assembly of claim 12 wherein the sensor is an infrared sensor.

15. The sensor assembly of claim 12 wherein the sensor is coupled to the animal.

16. The sensor assembly of claim 12 wherein the sensor is positioned near a chest region of the animal.

17. The sensor assembly of claim 12 wherein the sensor is positioned on an extremity of the animal.

18. The sensor assembly of claim 12 wherein the sensor is selected from the group consisting of a directional sensor, a positional sensor and an inclination sensor.

19. The sensor assembly of claim 12 wherein the object is secured to an extremity of the animal.

20. The sensor assembly of claim 12 further comprising a signaling unit that generates a sensory signal that is received by the animal when the sensor detects movement of the object near the head-neck region of the animal.

21. The sensor assembly of claim 20 wherein the sensory signal is a signal selected from the group consisting of an audible signal, a vibratory signal and a visual signal.

22. A sensor assembly for monitoring movement of an object near a first body region of an animal, the sensor assembly comprising:

a sensor that is coupled to the animal, the sensor detecting movement of the object near the first body region of the animal; and

a signaling unit that generates a sensory signal that is received by the animal when the sensor detects movement of the object near the first body region of the animal.

23. The sensor assembly of claim 22 wherein the first body region is a head-neck region of the animal.

24. The sensor assembly of claim 22 wherein the object is a second body region of the animal.

25. The sensor assembly of claim 24 wherein the second body region is an extremity of the animal.

26. The sensor assembly of claim 22 wherein the sensor is an infrared sensor.

27. The sensor assembly of claim 22 wherein the sensory signal is a signal selected from the group consisting of an audible signal, a vibratory signal and a visual signal.

28. The sensor assembly of claim 22 wherein the sensor is positioned near a chest region of the animal.

29. The sensor assembly of claim 22 wherein the sensor is positioned on an extremity of the animal.

30. The sensor assembly of claim 22 wherein the object is secured to a second body region of the animal.

31. The sensor assembly of claim 22 wherein the sensor is selected from the group consisting of a directional sensor, a positional sensor and an inclination sensor.

32. The sensor assembly of claim 22 further comprising a counter that counts the number of times that the sensor detects movement of the object near the first body region of the animal.

33. A sensor assembly for monitoring movement of an extremity near a head-neck region of an human, the sensor assembly comprising:

a sensor that is coupled to the human, the sensor detecting movement of the extremity near the head-neck region of the human; and

a signaling unit that generates a sensory signal that is received by the human when the sensor detects movement of the extremity near the head-neck region of the human.

34. The sensor assembly of claim 33 wherein the sensor is an infrared sensor.

35. The sensor assembly of claim 33 wherein the sensory signal is a signal selected from the group consisting of an audible signal, a vibratory signal and a visual signal.

36. The sensor assembly of claim 33 wherein the sensor is positioned near a chest region of the animal.

37. The sensor assembly of claim 33 wherein the sensor is positioned on an extremity of the animal.

38. The sensor assembly of claim 33 wherein the object is secured to a second body region of the animal.

39. The sensor assembly of claim 33 wherein the sensor is selected from the group consisting of a directional sensor, a positional sensor and an inclination sensor.

40. The sensor assembly of claim 33 further comprising a counter that counts the number of times that the sensor detects movement of the object near the first body region of the animal.

41. A method for monitoring movement of an object near a first body region of an animal, the method comprising the steps of:

positioning a sensor that detects movement of the object near the first body region; and

activating a signaling unit that signals the animal when the sensor detects movement of the object near the first body region.

42. The method of claim 41 wherein the step of positioning a sensor includes using an infrared sensor to detect movement near the first body region.

43. The method of claim 41 wherein the step of positioning a sensor includes positioning a sensor that detects movement of a second body region near the first body region.

44. The method of claim 43 wherein the first body region is a head-neck region of the animal, and wherein the second body region is an extremity of the animal.

45. A method for monitoring movement of an object near a first body region of an animal, the method comprising the steps of:

positioning a sensor that detects movement of the object near the first body region; and

monitoring the number of times that the sensor detects movement of the object near the first body region using a counter.

46. The method of claim 45 wherein the step of positioning a sensor includes using an infrared sensor to detect movement near the first body region.

47. The method of claim 45 wherein the step of positioning a sensor includes positioning a sensor that detects movement of a second body region near the first body region.

48. The method of claim 47 wherein the first body region is a head-neck region of the animal, and wherein the second body region is an extremity of the animal.

49. The method of claim 45 further comprising the step of activating a signaling unit that signals the animal when the sensor detects movement of the object near the first body region.